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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An operation lever assembly of a vehicle transmission operator comprising:  
a lever base mounted on a vehicle body and having a top face formed with a hole;  
an engagement member mounted to the lever base from below and protruding through the hole;  
a tubular lever body joined to a protruding portion of the engagement member and mounted to an upper portion of the lever base;  
a rod accommodated in the lever body and extending vertically;  
a resilient member located between a lower end of the rod and a top face of the engagement member for biasing the rod upwardly,  
wherein the lever body has a slit cut from a lower end of the lever body to a height position in an axial direction of the lever body,  
wherein the rod is mounted with a lock-pin extending in a transverse direction of the lever body,  
wherein the lock-pin protrudes outwardly through the slit.
2. (Original) An operation lever assembly according to claim 1,  
wherein the lever base is mounted with a rotation stopper,  
and  
wherein the rotation stopper engages with an engagement portion formed at the lower end of the lever body for preventing the lever body from rotating.
3. (Original) An operation lever assembly according to claim 1,  
wherein the lower end of the rod includes a guide for positioning and retaining the resilient member.

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4. (Original) An operation lever assembly according to claim 1,  
wherein the engagement member has an upper end including a guide for positioning  
and retaining the resilient member.
5. (Original) An operation lever assembly according to claim 1,  
wherein the engagement member and the lever body are joined to each other by bolt  
fastening.
6. (Original) A method of assembling an operation lever, comprising;  
mounting a locking member transversely to an operation rod of an operation lever;  
inserting the operation rod longitudinally in a tubular member of the operation lever,  
inserting the locking member longitudinally in an opening of the tubular member; and  
screwing the tubular member having the operation rod and the locking member and a  
base of the operation lever to each other.
7. (New) An operation lever assembly of a vehicle transmission operator comprising:  
a lever base mounted on a vehicle body and having a top face formed with a hole;  
an engagement member mounted to the lever base from below and protruding through  
the hole;  
a tubular lever body joined to a protruding portion of the engagement member and  
mounted to an upper portion of the lever base;  
a rod accommodated in the lever body and extending vertically;  
a resilient member located between a lower end of the rod and a top face of the  
engagement member for biasing the rod upwardly,  
wherein the lever body has a slit cut from a lower end of the lever body to a height  
position in an axial direction of the lever body,  
wherein the slit has a width set to a predetermined minimum clearance value,

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wherein the rod is mounted with a lock-pin extending in a transverse direction of the lever body,

wherein the lock-pin protrudes outwardly through the slit.